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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY *WOLF JR*

DATE *6/18/52*

June 26, 1952

RDS [] or XDS [] EXT. DATE

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MEMORANDUM

TO: NEA - Mr. Daspit

FROM: S/P - John H. Ferguson

SUBJECT: Middle East Defense Organization

I have read the memorandum of the Joint Chiefs of Staff dated 24 June. The two points made there that are not already dealt with in our revised comments relate to the establishment of defense arrangements in the form of an allied military command (presumably in the near future) and the suggestion for a steering group in the Middle East defense organization consisting of representatives from the U.K., Turkey, and the Arab League.

The first of these points, relating to the establishment of command arrangements, confuses me somewhat since the Chiefs do not suggest the deletion of our statement that it is unnecessary to designate a supreme allied commander at this time. Perhaps they merely mean that a defense organization should be so organized that it can be converted into a command if that seems appropriate.

With respect to the steering group, this seems to me to be a matter which we can discuss with the British in subsequent conversations. Whether it will be useful to have such a steering group within the Middle East defense organization would, I should think, depend upon the degree and enthusiasm of Arab participation.

I do not think that either of these matters is of such a nature that the Secretary should be asked to recall our comments for the purpose of modifying them. It does seem to me that we might want to mention to the Secretary that in conversations on this subject he could let the British know that the Joint Chiefs feel that some defense arrangements are clearly desirable in the Middle East and that if the Arabs are unwilling to participate in a defense organization, we would still favor other arrangements in the interest of a coordinated effort in the area. The Secretary might also say that while we do not believe it desirable to have a steering group in

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the Middle East defense organization composed of the standing group members, we would have no objection to some kind of steering group in the organization on which the people with forces in the area are represented, i.e. the U.K., Turkey, and a representative of the Arab League. Of course, even if there were such a steering group, we would still desire ad hoc arrangements outside the defense organization to coordinate the views and plans of the U.S., U.K., France, and Turkey.

S/P:JHFerguson:AVH

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